



Afternoon Alert - Friday, March 3, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most TV networks gave top play to reports that the Malaysian police released a North Korean man detained in connection with the murder of Kim Jong Nam due to a lack of sufficient evidence, saying that he will be deported today. TV Asahi led with a report that Moritomo Gakuen President Kagoike lobbied local assembly members regarding the construction of an elementary school in Osaka.

SECURITY

Nago mayor reiterates opposition to FRF construction at Henoko

Okinawa Times wrote that Nago Mayor Inamine commented on the FRF construction at Henoko during his policy speech delivered at a municipal assembly session on Thursday. The mayor stated that he is undaunted by the central government's highhanded approach of disregarding the human rights of the people of Okinawa and will firmly uphold his pledge not to allow the construction of a new base either at sea or on land. Inamine added that it is clear that the danger to local citizens will increase due the construction of the new base because Ospreys will be deployed there.

Okinawa Prefecture to regard Henoko landfill work after April as violation of prefectural rules

Okinawa Times reported on a comment by a senior prefectural government official concerning the expiration at the end of March of the prefecture's permit for destroying rock reefs at Henoko. The official told an assembly session on Thursday that performing such work without permission would violate the fishing regulations set by the prefecture. Another senior official commented on the dirt to be brought from outside Okinawa for reclamation at Henoko by saying that the prefectural

government will advise the government to remove invasive species from the dirt or stop using it based on its ordinance.

- [Japan has urgent need for countermeasures against high-altitude missiles](#) (Sankei)
- [U.S. Marines deepen friendship with local children](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [Nuclear Regulation Authority to establish cyberdefense team](#) (Mainichi)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Commentary: Too soon to be optimistic about “progress” shown by Trump](#) (Yomiuri)
- [President Trump’s reliance on military might lacks strategy](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: President Trump](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Trump didn’t show concrete path toward a “strong America”/Bipartisanship urged for realizing policies](#) (The Japan News)
- [Outlook still uncertain for Japanese automakers after Trump’s speech](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Trump’s call to boost military spending could spark arms race](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Trump should prioritize diplomatic power over military buildup](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japan and the Philippines agree to strengthen joint maritime security](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: President Trump](#) (Sankei)

ECONOMY

- [Interview: METI chief says gov’t will intervene in fourth industrial revolution](#) (Nikkei Business Feb. 27, 2017)
- [Vice minister says METI bureaucrats should think about Japan’s future](#) (Nikkei Business)

- [Tepco, Chubu Electric agree to fossil-fuel power integration](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SCIENCE

- [Tokyo eyes self-driven delivery by 2030 in industrial AI plan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Riken to open iPS drug development hub in 2018](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [METI reviews expressions for potential sites for final nuclear waste disposal](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on March 2](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House Budget Committee, March 2](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Commentary: Democratic Party should follow Communist Party's example](#) (Sankei)
- [Eyeing land sale, school operator offered bundle to LDP lawmaker](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Koike and Ishihara](#) (Mainichi)
- [LDP Tanigaki group on brink of breaking up](#) (Sankei)

SOCIETY

Online shopping overload

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported that online shopping services are becoming increasingly popular in Japan, saying that some products can be delivered within an hour of the order in urban areas today. Although the online shopping industry has become a 13-trillion-yen market, those who engage in delivery services are overworked due to the massive amount of packages. Yamato Transport, Japan's largest courier, is reviewing its services in light of the serious shortage of drivers amid increasing demand for convenient services.

